

CHAPTER 6

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

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Chapter 6 Consultation and Coordination

This chapter describes specific actions taken by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Elko District, Wells Field Office to consult and coordinate with Native American Tribes, government agencies, and interested groups, and to involve the interested general public during preparation of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

A Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register on July 19, 2012, formally announcing the intent to prepare an EIS for the Long Canyon Mine Project. Publication of the NOI initiated the scoping process and invited participation of affected and interested agencies, organizations, and the public in helping the BLM determine the scope and issues to be addressed in the EIS.

Public involvement is an important part of the environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) process. Federal agencies are required to make “diligent efforts” to involve the public early and often in preparing and implementing their NEPA procedures; to inform the public by providing public notice of NEPA-related hearings, public meetings, and availability of documents; and to solicit appropriate information from the public (40 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 1506.6).

The goal of the public involvement process is to foster public understanding of the project and allow participation in the analysis and decision-making process regarding the proposed Long Canyon Mine Project EIS.

6.1 Cooperating Agencies and Consultation

Cooperating agencies were invited to participate in the NEPA process including: review of analyses, contribution of technical expertise, and assisting in the response to public comments as required by their jurisdiction or regulatory authority. Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) were developed between the cooperating agencies and the BLM. The purpose of the MOA is to:

- Confirm the formal designation of the BLM as lead agency in the EIS process with the responsibility for the conclusions of the draft EIS (DEIS) and final EIS;
- Formally designate cooperating agencies in the EIS planning process;
- Formalize and provide a framework for cooperation and coordination between the BLM and a cooperating agency that is necessary in order to successfully complete the EIS in a timely, efficient and thorough manner;
- Describe the respective roles, responsibilities and expertise of each entity in the planning process; and
- Ensure that the working relationship between the BLM and cooperating agency meets the purposes and intent of NEPA.

As part of the federal review process in response to Newmont's proposed Long Canyon Mine Project, the BLM sent letters to the agencies and cities below inviting their participation as cooperating agencies for the NEPA process and EIS documentation. Cooperating agencies include:

- Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW);
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IX;
- Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Indian Reservation;
- City of West Wendover, Nevada;
- City of Wendover, Utah;
- Elko County Board of Commissioners;
- City of Wells, Nevada; and
- City of Elko, Nevada.

Consultation with Native American tribes is an ongoing process throughout the document preparation.

6.2 Scoping Process

Notice of Intent

The publication of the NOI initiated a formal 45-day scoping period and announced the locations and dates of the public scoping meetings.

Press Releases

A BLM press release was sent to the following news outlets:

Print Media

Winnemucca Publishing	Mesquite Local News	Wells Progress
The Nevada City Advocate	Mesquite Citizen	Humboldt Sun
Tahoe Daily Tribune	The Desert Flyer (Cal Nev Ari)	Nevada Rancher
Tonopah Times	Sacramento Bee	San Francisco Chronicle
Elko Daily Free Press	Travel Nevada	Mason Valley News
Ely News	Northern Nevada Business Weekly	Lincoln County Record
The Record Courier (Carson City)	Weekly Seven (Las Vegas)	Las Vegas Review Journal
Las Vegas Sun	Nevada Appeal	Progressive Rancher
Lahontan Valley News	Reno Gazette Journal	Associated Press
Daily Sparks Tribune	The Mirror (Pahrump)	Pahrump Valley Times

Radio

Talk Radio Pahrump	Nevada Public Radio	CBS Radio
Radio One Network	Ruby Radio Corporation	Elko Radio
The Radio Network	Lotus Radio (Reno)	KNPR (Nevada Public Radio)
KVLV (Fallon)	KWNA (Winnemucca)	KNYE (Pahrump)
KDSS (Ely)		

Television

Cox TV Reno	Entravision Nevada (Univision)	KENV TV (Elko)
KPVM TV (Pahrump)	KVVU (Las Vegas)	KTNV (Las Vegas)
KLAS (Las Vegas)	KXNT (Las Vegas)	KOLO (Reno)
KRNV (Reno)	KTVN (Reno)	KNPB (Reno)
KRXI (Reno)		

Project Website

A website for the project was launched concurrently with publication of the NOI under BLM Projects on the BLM Elko District webpage (http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html) and will remain active throughout the life of the project. Scoping information posted to the project website includes the NOI, the press release, and the scoping letter that includes the project description, comment form, and two project figures including the project location map and the proposed facilities diagram.

Scoping Letter

A scoping letter was prepared and sent to 60 potentially interested parties on July 19, 2012. This letter provided an overview of the proposed project, a project location map and proposed project facilities diagram, a scoping comment form, information regarding participation in the public involvement process, and the schedule for the public scoping meetings. The mailing list of potentially interested parties was compiled by the BLM from existing information on persons with known and potential interest in the project and previous NEPA action mailing lists.

Scoping Meetings

The following three scoping meetings were held at locations in Nevada:

- Wendover, Utah August 6, 2012;
- Elko, Nevada August 7, 2012; and
- Wells, Nevada August 8, 2012.

The meetings were held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All attendees were asked to sign in and provide their contact information. Lists of individuals who signed attendance sheets at the public meetings are included in the Long Canyon Mine Scoping Report (Appendix 1A) (JBR, 2012). Representatives from the BLM, Newmont, and JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc. were present at each meeting to answer questions, discuss the project, and accept public comments. Attendees at the scoping meetings were provided with handouts describing the project as well as the NEPA process. Comment forms were also provided to all attendees to facilitate submission of written scoping comments. The public was given the option to provide comments during the meeting, using regular mail, fax, or e-mail. In addition, information regarding the project and the NEPA process was posted on the BLM's project website.

Scoping Response

The 45-day scoping period for the Long Canyon Mine Project, during which comments were received, was from July 19 through September 4, 2012. All responses received by BLM were

logged, analyzed, and summarized to discern issues of concern. A total of 34 letters, emails, and faxes were received in response to the request for public comment regarding the project. Copies of all letters, comment forms, faxes, and e-mails received are available in the Long Canyon Mine Scoping Report (Appendix 1A) (JBR, 2012).

Comments received in response to solicitations, including names and addresses of those who commented, are considered part of the public record on this EIS and are available for public inspection at the BLM Elko District Office.

6.3 EIS Mailing List

An EIS mailing list of interested persons was initially assembled from the scoping mailing list with the addition of persons who expressed interest in being added to the mailing list during and subsequent to scoping. The mailing list for the project was revised to add those persons who provided comments in response to scoping, requested to be on the mailing list, or signed a scoping meeting attendance list. Respondents that provided more than one comment letter were listed only once in the mailing list.

6.4 EIS Notification and Distribution

The Long Canyon Mine DEIS review period will open on publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the DEIS in the Federal Register. This will begin a 45-day comment period. The BLM will also announce the availability of the DEIS by publishing notices of availability in local newspapers, on the project website, and through mailing. The notices will specify dates for the comment period and identify public meeting locations and dates. The DEIS will be widely distributed to interested parties identified in the updated mailing list, as described above, and also made available via the Internet.

6.5 Next Steps in the Planning Process

Comments received on the DEIS will be evaluated and modifications to the EIS will be made as needed. A second NOA will be published in the Federal Register to notify the public of the availability of the Final EIS. A 30-day public availability period will follow, and a copy of the document will be filed with the EPA.

6.6 List of Preparers and Reviewers

Table 6.6-1 List of Preparers and Technical Specialists

BLM Elko District Office	
Field Manager	Bryan Fuell
Assistant Field Manager – Renewable Resources	Aaron Mier
Assistant Field Manager – Non-Renewable Resources	Bryan Mulligan
Project Manager	Whitney Wirthlin
Planning/Environmental Coordinator	Victoria Anne
Fire and Forestry	Matt Murphy
Environmental Justice/Geology/Hazardous Materials /Socioeconomics/Transportation	Whitney Wirthlin
Air/Geochemistry/Groundwater Hydrogeology/Soils/Surface Water/Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Mark Dean
Noise Review	Alex Gardiner
Noxious/Invasive Weeds	Bryan Mulligan
Range/Grazing/Vegetation Resources	Jeff Moore
Cultural Resources/Native American Interests/Paleontology	Julie Rodman
Wild Horses and Burros	Bruce Thompson
Wildlife/TES Wildlife	Alex Gardiner
Recreation	Blaine Potts
Visual Resources/Wilderness Study Areas	Blaine Potts
Lands, Realty, and Access	JoeyJames Guistino III
Graphics/GIS	Bruce Piper
Newmont Mining Corporation	
Regional Environmental Manager	Dan Anderson
Project Manager	Steve Grosz
Environmental Coordinator	John Stefka
Nevada Department of Wildlife (Cooperating Agency)	
Supervising Habitat Biologist	Steve Foree
Biologist	Scott Roberts
Biologist	Kari Huebner
Game Biologist	Caleb McAdoo
Biologist	Lindsey Lesmeister
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Cooperating Agency)	
EPA Lead Project Reviewer	Carter Jessop

Table 6.6-2 Third Party Contractor – JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Role/Resource	Staff	Experience
Project Manager	Brian Buck	BS Geology MS Geological Engineering 33 years experience
Assistant Project Manager	Kristi Schaff	BS Land Rehabilitation minor in Soils 13 years experience

Role/Resource	Staff	Experience
Lead Author	Jon Schulman	MS Environmental Engineering MA Journalism 19 years experience
Land Use and Access/Cumulative Effects	Steve Morton	BA General Studies Political Science and English 7 years experience
Recreation/Wilderness/Environmental Justice/Visual Resources	George Dix	BS Environmental Resource Management 7 years experience
Vegetation, Special Status Species, Noxious Weeds, Range, Wild Horses	Jenny Addy	BS Conservation and Restoration Ecology 5 years experience
Soils	Sheryl Fontaine	MS Geological Sciences BS Geology 20 years experience
Geology & Minerals	James Sage	BS Geology 15 years experience
Paleontology	Alysen Swenson	BS Geology 6 years experience
Hazardous Materials	Nancy Lightfoot, C.E.M.	BS Geology 12 years experience
Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species, Sensitive Species	Dave Worley	BS Biology MS Zoology 32 years experience
Wildlife Resources, Including Migratory Birds and Special Status Wildlife	Wendy Broadhead	BS Plant Science BA Anthropology BA Art 24 years experience
Air	David Strohm	BS Meteorology 10 years experience
Air	Aaron Hoberg	BS Chemical Engineering 5 years air experience
Surface Water	Karla Knoop	BS Watershed Science 28 years experience
Groundwater	Alan Mayo	BS Geology MS Geology PhD Hydrogeology 28 years experience
Groundwater	Rebekah Brooks	MS Geology, Hydrogeology Emphasis BS Geology 29 years experience
Wetlands	Diana Eck	BS Wildlife Biology 6 years experience
Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns	Jenni Prince-Mahoney	BA Anthropology MC NEPA 20 years experience
Socioeconomics	Jan Stambro	BA Business Management MBA 22 years experience
GIS/Drafting	Christine Johnson	BS Geology 11 years drafting experience
GIS/Drafting	Jason Trook	MS Geography 7 years GIS experience